

How to Get a Question on The Ballot

District Guide

2020

Garth Fell, Auditor
Information Current as of March 2020

The logo for Snohomish County Elections features three stylized upward-pointing arrows in red, blue, and green, arranged horizontally.

Snohomish County Elections
A Division of the Auditor's Office

How to Get a Question on the Ballot

The 2020 District Guide is designed to provide election and filing information to districts. The guide is for informational purposes only and does not take the place of local, state or federal laws. Please contact Snohomish County Elections at 425-388-3444 if you need additional information or have questions.



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Step One: Decide on an Election

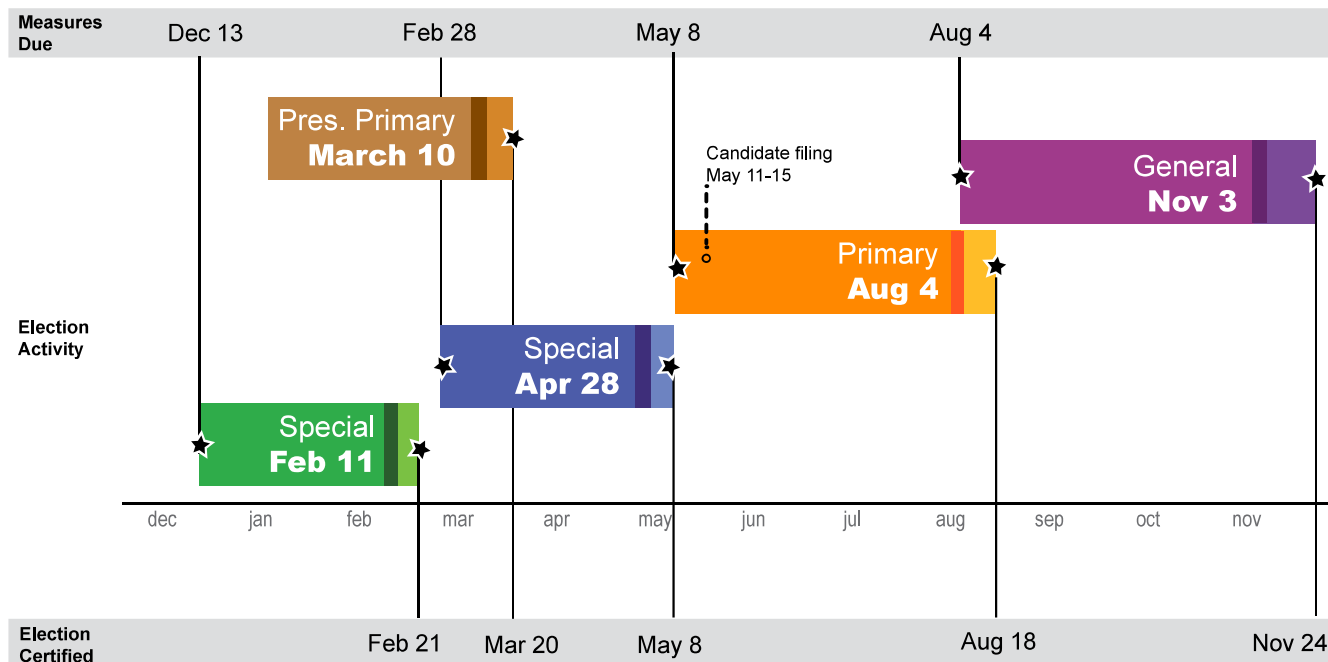
There are several factors your district will want to consider when deciding when to put a measure on the ballot, such as what else will be on the ballot (e.g. Primary vs. Special Election), the validation figures that must be met for bond measures to pass, election costs, and election deadlines.

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Elections Timeline

2020 Elections Timeline



Measures for special elections are due 60 days before an election day.
Measures for the primaries are due by the Friday before candidate filing.
Measures for general elections are due by the date of the primary.

Ballots are mailed 19 days before an election day.
Military and overseas ballots are mailed 30 days before special election days
and 45 days before primary and general election days.

Special elections are certified 10 days after an election day.
Primaries are certified 14 days after an election day.
General elections are certified 21 days after an election day.



Snohomish County Elections
A Division of the Auditor's Office

(425) 388-3444 • elections@snoco.org
www.snoco.org/elections

2021 Key Election Dates (RCW 29A.04.311, 321)

Ballot Measure Due

December 11, 2020
February 28, 2021
May 7, 2021
August 3, 2021

Election Date

February 9, 2021
April 27, 2021
August 3, 2021
November 2, 2021

Election Certified

February 19, 2021
May 7, 2021
August 17, 2021
November 23, 2021

2020 Validation Figures

District	2019 General Election Voter Count	2019 General Election Number of Ballots Cast	Turnout	40% of Ballots Cast	60% of 40% of Ballots Cast
Countywide					
Snohomish County	475,926	204,160	42.90%	81,664	48,998
Cities and Towns					
City of Arlington	11,518	4,654	40.41%	1,862	1,117
City of Bothell*	10,894	5,123	47.03%	2,049	1,230
City of Brier	4,890	2,557	52.59%	1,023	614
City of Edmonds	30,504	17,331	56.82%	6,932	4,159
City of Everett	56,735	21,768	38.37%	8,707	5,224
City of Gold Bar	1,287	508	39.47%	203	122
City of Granite Falls	2,432	852	35.03%	341	204
City of Lake Stevens	20,367	8,391	41.20%	3,356	2,014
City of Lynnwood	20,488	8,573	41.84%	3,429	2,058
City of Marysville	38,973	15,071	38.67%	6,028	3,617
City of Mill Creek	12,722	5,796	45.56%	2,318	1,391
City of Monroe	9,168	3,699	40.35%	1,480	888
City of Mountlake Terrace	12,767	5,614	43.97%	2,246	1,347
City of Mukilteo	14,306	7,453	52.10%	2,981	1,789
City of Snohomish	6,443	2,924	45.38%	1,170	702
City of Stanwood	4,378	2,048	46.78%	819	492
City of Sultan	2,909	1,286	44.21%	514	309
Town of Darrington	805	328	40.75%	131	79
Town of Index	119	66	55.46%	26	16
Town of Woodway	1,009	568	56.29%	227	136
School Districts					
Arlington School District No. 16	21,654	9,584	44.26%	3,834	2,300
Darrington School District No. 330*	1,860	815	43.82%	326	196
Edmonds School District No. 15	104,865	47,776	45.56%	19,110	11,466
Everett School District No. 2	82,209	34,031	41.40%	13,612	8,167
Granite Falls School District No. 332	10,001	3,948	39.48%	1,579	948
Index School District No. 63	349	152	43.55%	61	36

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*Validation figures reflect only the portion of the jurisdiction that lies within Snohomish County. Jurisdictions that cross county lines will need to collect validation figures from all counties where their jurisdiction exists.



2020 Validation Figures (continued)

District	2019 General Election Voter Count	2019 General Election Number of Ballots Cast	Turnout	40% of Ballots Cast	60% of 40% of Ballots Cast
School Districts (continued)					
Lake Stevens School District No. 4	29,361	12,175	41.47%	4,870	2,922
Lakewood School District No. 306	10,185	4,108	40.33%	1,643	986
Marysville School District No. 25	44,935	17,804	39.62%	7,122	4,273
Monroe School District No. 103	24,101	10,812	44.86%	4,325	2,595
Mukilteo School District No. 6	53,527	20,872	38.99%	8,349	5,009
Northshore School District No. 417*	32,146	14,173	44.09%	5,669	3,402
Snohomish School District No. 201	38,558	17,598	45.64%	7,039	4,224
Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401*	13,276	6,463	48.68%	2,585	1,551
Sultan School District No. 311	8,899	3,849	43.25%	1,540	924
Fire and EMS Districts					
Bothell EMS District	10,895	5,120	46.99%	2,048	1,229
Fire District 1	83,554	31,867	38.14%	12,747	7,648
Fire District 4	19,839	9,409	47.43%	3,764	2,258
Fire District 5	5,574	2,472	44.35%	989	593
Fire District 7	55,160	23,605	42.79%	9,442	5,665
Fire District 10	6,108	2,682	43.91%	1,073	644
Fire District 12	10,024	4,328	43.18%	1,731	1,039
Fire District 15	3,452	1,327	38.44%	531	318
Fire District 16	2,112	923	43.70%	369	222
Fire District 17	8,717	3,450	39.58%	1,380	828
Fire District 19	2,541	1,178	46.36%	471	283
Fire District 21	6,342	2,946	46.45%	1,178	707
Fire District 22	3,708	1,657	44.68%	663	398
Fire District 23	242	112	46.28%	45	27
Fire District 24*	1,838	801	43.58%	320	192
Fire District 25	669	307	45.89%	123	74
Fire District 26	3,283	1,333	40.60%	533	320

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*Validation figures reflect only the portion of the jurisdiction that lies within Snohomish County. Jurisdictions that cross county lines will need to collect validation figures from all counties where their jurisdiction exists.



2020 Validation Figures (continued)

District	2019 General Election Voter Count	2019 General Election Number of Ballots Cast	Turnout	40% of Ballots Cast	60% of 40% of Ballots Cast
Fire and EMS Districts (continued)					
Fire District 27	71	42	59.15%	17	10
Lake Stevens Fire	30,769	12,956	42.11%	5,182	3,109
Marysville Fire District RFA	49,007	19,395	39.58%	7,758	4,655
North County Regional Fire Authority	16,278	7,859	48.28%	3,144	1,886
South Sno. Co. Fire & Rescue RFA	104,024	40,458	38.89%	16,183	9,710
Water and Sewer Districts					
Alderwood Water and Wastewater District	126,406	51,217	40.52%	20,487	12,292
Cross Valley Water District	16,280	7,693	47.25%	3,077	1,846
Highland Water District	3,786	1,750	46.22%	700	420
Jordan Village Sewer District	1	0	0.00%	0	0
Lake Armstrong Creek Water Sewer District	2	2	100.00%	1	0
Lake Stevens Sewer District	21,422	8,923	41.65%	3,569	2,142
Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District	12,749	6,304	49.45%	2,522	1,513
Olympic View Water District	10,457	5,336	51.03%	2,134	1,281
Ronald Wastewater District*	9	2	22.22%	1	0
Silver Lake Water and Sewer District	33,195	14,040	42.30%	5,616	3,370
Startup Water District	342	159	46.49%	64	38
Hospital Districts					
Hospital District 1	73,047	33,001	45.18%	13,200	7,920
Hospital District 2	113,193	51,810	45.77%	20,724	12,434
Hospital District 3	22,516	10,007	44.44%	4,003	2,402
Port Districts					
Port of Edmonds	15,273	9,576	62.70%	3,830	2,298
Port of Everett	59,083	24,784	41.95%	9,914	5,948
Utility Districts					
Public Utilities District No. 1*	476,016	204,110	42.88%	81,644	48,986

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*Validation figures reflect only the portion of the jurisdiction that lies within Snohomish County. Jurisdictions that cross county lines will need to collect validation figures from all counties where their jurisdiction exists.



2020 Validation Figures (continued)

District	2019 General Election Voter Count	2019 General Election Number of Ballots Cast	Turnout	40% of Ballots Cast	60% of 40% of Ballots Cast
Library Districts					
King County Rural Library District*	10,895	5,120	46.99%	2,048	1,229
Sno - Isle Library District*	407,245	176,598	43.36%	70,639	42,384
Arlington Library Capital Facility Area	21,346	9,233	43.25%	3,693	2,216
Granite Falls Library Capital Facility Area	10,005	3,949	39.47%	1,580	948
Lake Stevens Library Capital Facility Area	29,373	12,171	41.44%	4,868	2,921
Monroe Library Capital Facility Area	17,174	7,400	43.09%	2,960	1,776
Stanwood-Camano Library Capital Facility Area*	13,276	6,464	48.69%	2,586	1,551
Snohomish Library Capital Facility Area	38,780	17,704	45.65%	7,082	4,249
Park and Recreation Districts					
East County Park and Recreation	23,907	10,708	44.79%	4,283	2,570
Lake Stevens Park and Recreation	29,373	12,171	41.44%	4,868	2,921
Northshore Park and Recreation Service Area	31,729	14,057	44.30%	5,623	3,374
Transportation Districts					
Arlington Transportation Benefit District	11,521	4,650	40.36%	1,860	1,116
Edmonds Transportation Benefit District	30,506	17,333	56.82%	6,933	4,160
Lynnwood Transportation Benefit District	20,490	8,572	41.84%	3,429	2,057
Marysville Transportation Benefit District	38,981	15,068	38.65%	6,027	3,616
Monroe Transportation Benefit District	9,168	3,698	40.34%	1,479	888
Mukilteo Transportation Benefit District	14,307	7,451	52.08%	2,980	1,788
Regional Transportation Authority*	270,163	115,892	42.90%	46,357	27,814
Snohomish Transportation Benefit District	6,444	2,922	45.34%	1,169	701
Stanwood Transportation Benefit District	4,378	2,048	46.78%	819	492
Transportation Benefit Area	351,574	151,843	43.19%	60,737	36,442
Conservation Districts					
Snohomish Conservation District	443,684	189,420	42.69%	75,768	45,461

*Validation figures reflect only the portion of the jurisdiction that lies within Snohomish County. Jurisdictions that cross county lines will need to collect validation figures from all counties where their jurisdiction exists.

Some ballot measures require a certain voter turnout based on the previous year's General Election.



Election Costs

Jurisdictions are responsible for sharing in the cost of elections in which they have a race or issue on the ballot.

The cost sharing model includes a minimum \$50 fee as well as a portion of all costs associated with the election. If there is only one jurisdiction on the ballot, that jurisdiction will be responsible for the entire cost of the election.

Calculation

When expenses associated with an election have been determined, Snohomish County Elections will determine the cost for each jurisdiction.

Election expenses include staff costs; ballot printing and mailing costs (i.e. envelopes, postage, and ballots); legal advertising costs; other consumable supply costs; and elections overhead.

Each jurisdiction's cost of an election is based on:

- total number of jurisdictions with a race or issue on the ballot, and
- total number of registered voters in each of those jurisdictions.

Please see the election cost calculation example below:

Calculation Example

The following is an example of how costs would be apportioned for an election with 3 jurisdictions placing issues before voters in a Special Election that costs \$200,000 to administer:

Jurisdictions	Registered Voters	Portion	Jurisdiction's Portion of Costs
A	1,000	.01	\$2,000
B	24,000	.24	\$48,000
C	75,000	.75	\$150,000
Totals	100,000	1.00	\$200,000

In most cases, one can assume that the greater the number of jurisdictions that appear in an election, the more the expenses are divided, and the lower the election cost will be for each jurisdiction.

Payment

Jurisdictions with a Snohomish County Treasurer account will have their portion of election costs drawn automatically from this account approximately 45 days following election certification. A statement with the amount taken will be sent to each jurisdiction.

Jurisdictions without a Snohomish County Treasurer account will be sent an invoice with a request for prompt payment.

Questions?

For additional information about election costs or the process for calculating individual jurisdiction's costs, contact Snohomish County Elections Manager at 425-388-3625.



April 28 Special Election

Ballot Measures

Resolutions due	February 28
Explanatory statements due*	February 28
Pro/con committee appointments due*	February 28
Voters' pamphlet mailed*	April 9

Voter Registration Deadline

Last day to register or update registration by mail/online	April 20
Last day to register/update in Auditor's office	April 28, 8 p.m.

Voting/Ballot Mailing

Military ballots mailed	March 27
Ballot drop boxes open	March 27
Accessible voting begins in office	April 8
All other ballots mailed	April 9
Last day to mail or return voted ballot	April 28

Special Election Day

April 28

Certification of Election Results

County certification	May 8
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*Only applies to jurisdictions that have requested a local voters' pamphlet.
Pamphlet requested for the April election is mailed as an insert with the ballot.



August 4 Primary

Ballot Measures

Resolutions due	May 8
Explanatory statement due	May 8
Pro/con committee appointments due	May 8
Voters' pamphlet mailed	July 15

Voter Registration Deadlines

Last day to register or update registration by mail/online	July 27
Last day to register/update in Auditor's office	August 4, 8 p.m.

Voting/Ballot Mailing

Military ballots mailed	June 19
Ballot drop boxes open	June 19
Accessible voting begins in office	July 15
All other ballots mailed	July 16
Last day to mail or return voted ballot	August 4

Primary Day

August 4

Certification of Election Results

County certification	August 18
State certification	August 21



November 3 General Election

Ballot Measures

Resolutions due	August 4
Explanatory statement due	August 4
Pro/con committee appointments due	August 4
State Voters' Pamphlet mailed	To be determined

Voter Registration Deadline

Last day to register or update registration by mail/online	October 26
Last day to register/update registration in Auditor's office	November 3, 8 p.m.

Voting/Ballot Mailing

Military ballots mailed	September 18
Ballot drop boxes open	September 18
Accessible voting begins in office	October 14
All other ballots mailed	October 15
Last day to mail or return voted ballot	November 3

General Election Day

November 3

Certification of Election Results

County certification	November 24
State certification	December 3



February 9, 2021 Special Election

Ballot Measures

Resolutions due	December 11
Explanatory statement due*	December 11
Pro/con committee appointments due*	December 11
Voters' pamphlet mailed*	January 21

Voter Registration Deadline

Last day to register or update registration by mail/online	February 1
Last day to register/update registration in Auditor's office	February 9, 8 p.m.

Voting/Ballot Mailing

Military ballots mailed	January 8
Ballot drop boxes open	January 8
Accessible voting begins in office	January 20
All other ballots mailed	January 21
Last day to mail or return voted ballot	February 9

Special Election Day

February 9

Certification of Election Results

County certification	February 19
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*Only applies to jurisdictions that have requested a local voters' pamphlet.
Pamphlet requested in the February election is mailed as an insert with the ballot.



Step Two: Submit Your Ballot Measure

Once you've decided when to hold your election, you will need to submit a resolution to the County Auditor calling for the election. You will also need to submit an explanatory statement and select people to serve on pro and con committees to write statements to be published in the local voters' pamphlet.

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Submitting a Ballot Measure

For a measure to appear on a ballot, a local jurisdiction must submit a resolution to the Auditor's Office calling for an election.

What to submit:

1. **Ballot Measure Cover Sheet**
2. **Resolution**
3. **Explanatory Statement***
4. **Pro/Con Committee Appointment Forms***

See next page for descriptions

*Explanatory statements and pro/con committee appointment forms are only required for February and April elections if a district has requested a local voters' pamphlet. They are always required for August and November elections.

Where to File

File a resolution with the Auditor's Office:

- in-person - 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Administration Building West, 1st Floor
- by email - elections@snoco.org
- by fax - (425) 259-2777

Questions

For more information regarding the submission of ballot measures, contact the Elections Division at (425) 388-3444.

Example of Ballot Title:

Name of Jurisdiction:	Kidsrule School District No. 45
Proposition #:	Proposition No. 1
Short Title:	General Obligation Bonds - \$1,000,000
Ballot Title:	The Board of Directors of Kidsrule School District No. 45 approved proposition No. 111-01 for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to replace and equip Hillydilly Elementary, modernize technology systems and equipment and do pre-planning site and facility analysis by issuing \$1,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years. Should this proposition be approved?
Response:	Yes No



Submitting a Ballot Measure (continued)

Resolutions

Resolutions passed by the local jurisdiction's governing body must include:

- the date of the election in which the measure should appear on the ballot
- the authority under which the measure is placed on the ballot
- a potential ballot title to appear on the ballot
- authorization signature(s) of the governing body
- if requesting a local voters' pamphlet for a special election - language asking for the publication of a local voters' pamphlet

Jurisdictions that cover two counties will submit the resolution to the county where most of its voters live.

Ballot Titles

A ballot title is the language that will be presented to voters on the ballot. The ballot title should:

- adhere to all legal requirements based on the type of measure (levy, bond, capital projects, etc.)
- appear in the format illustrated on page 15
- have voting responses no longer than 17 characters in length (response such as yes/no or approved/rejected are strongly encouraged)
- have a concise statement no more than 75 words

LVP Publication:

February - Sent as insert with ballot (optional)

April - Sent as insert with ballot (optional)

August - Sent as separate booklet (required)

November - Sent as separate booklet (required)

Local Voters' Pamphlet

Snohomish County Elections publishes a local voters' pamphlet (LVP) featuring candidates and issues for primaries and general elections. Jurisdictions may request the printing of a local voters' pamphlet for the February or April elections.

Jurisdictions with a measure on the Primary or General Election ballot must participate in the local voters' pamphlet unless a waiver is granted by the County Council.

Explanatory Statement

A ballot measure's explanatory statement must:

- address the anticipated effect of a measure if passed into law
- not exceed 200 words
- be submitted with a letter confirming it was written or approved by the jurisdiction's attorney

Pro/Con Committee Appointments

The jurisdiction's legislative authority has the responsibility of appointing up to three members for:

- a pro committee that will write a statement for (in favor of) the measure and a rebuttal to the con committee's statement
- a con committee that will write the statement against the measure and a rebuttal to the pro committee's statement

Committee appointment forms can be found on page 18 and online at www.snoco.org/elections.



Ballot Measure Cover Sheet



Snohomish County Elections

A Division of the Auditor's Office

Ballot Measure Cover Sheet/Receipt of Resolution

Please complete this form and submit with your resolution by the resolution deadline date. Call 425-388-3444 with questions about submitting a resolution or completing this form.

District Information

District Name: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Contact Phone & email: _____

Election Information

Election Date: _____

Type of Measure: _____
(e.g., Levy, Bond, Levy Lid Lift, etc.)

Pass/Fail Requirements: _____
(e.g., Simple Majority, 60% plus minimum turnout, etc.)

Attorney Information

Name: _____

Phone & email: _____

Have you included:

- ☐ Resolution signed by governing body?
- ☐ Request for local voters' pamphlet? (Feb/April Elections only. LVPs are required for Aug/Nov Elections).
- ☐ Explanatory Statement (not to exceed 200 words) with a letter from the district's attorney attesting that it was prepared by him/her?*
- ☐ Pro and Con Committee Appointment Forms?*

*Required for Aug/Nov Elections and for Feb/April Elections if requesting local voters' pamphlet.

Elections Office Use

Date Stamp

Person Delivering Resolution

Staff Receiving Resolution

Revised 10/17



Pro/Con Committee Form

Pro/Con Committee Appointment form (circle PRO or CON)

Snohomish County Local Voters' Pamphlet

District

Resolution number

I hereby certify the below-named individuals have been appointed, each have consented to serve as indicated and understand their name(s) will be listed in the official Local Voters' Pamphlet.

Authorized Signature/Legislative Authority

Date

Pro/Con Committee Members

Committee chair name

Phone

Committee chair email

Signature

Second member name

Phone

Email

Signature

Third member name

Phone

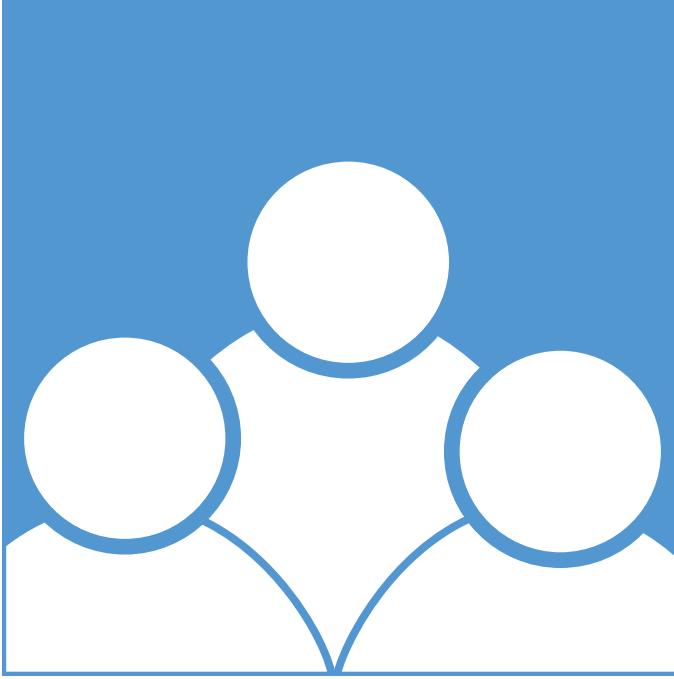
Email

Signature

The names of the above-mentioned persons will appear in the local voters' pamphlet in conjunction with the ballot measure submitted. Snohomish County will contact the committee chair person with submission requirements and deadlines. If the district is unable to identify and appoint members to a committee, Snohomish County Elections will attempt to find interested persons and appoint them to a committee.

Return To: Snohomish County Elections
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 505
Everett, WA 98201

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not take the place of local, state or federal laws. RCW, WAC and county code notations are offered as a reference.



Step Three: Pro/Con Committees Submit

Once the pro and con committees have been assigned by the districts, Snohomish County Elections will work with the committee chairs to collect the statements.

Pro/Con Committee Duties

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Pro/Con Committee Duties

Snohomish County Elections works directly with pro/con committees once they are appointed.

Pro/Con Statement Requirements:

- Statements have a 250-word limit*
- Rebuttals have a 75-word limit*
- Statements and rebuttals **must be signed** or otherwise approved by all members of the committee

*For districts that cross county lines, Snohomish County will follow the word count of the county where the ballot measure is required to be filed. When resolutions are submitted to King County, the committee may also submit a different statement for the Snohomish County Voters' Pamphlet.

Pro and con committees will prepare and submit a statement in favor or against a measure to appear in the local voters' pamphlet.

The chair of each committee is the primary contact for the Auditor's Office and will be in charge of submitting the committee's statement containing the signatures or approval of each member.

Committees can collaborate via phone, email, or in person. Statements can be written by one member and sent to the others, printed, signed, scanned and emailed to the Auditor's Office separately, if necessary. One document signed by each member is preferred.

Committees may seek the advice of others not on the committee, but only committee members' names will be included with the statement. Snohomish County Elections does not include titles or contact information with names.

Once the statements have been received and reviewed, they will be emailed to the opposing committee for rebuttal.

Snohomish County Elections reserves the right to reject any argument or statement if it does not meet requirements or if it is deemed to be libelous or otherwise inappropriate. If a statement is rejected, the committee chair will be notified by email and given 48 hours from the time of notification to submit an adjusted statement. The time of notification will be the time the email was sent to the candidate or committee.

For the Snohomish County Local Voters' Pamphlet Administrative Rules visit snoco.org/elections.

Refer to the submission deadlines on page 22.

Where to File Pro/Con Statements:

File pro/con statements and rebuttals with Snohomish County Elections:

- in-person - 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Administration Building West, 1st Floor
- by email - elections@snoco.org
- by fax - (425) 259-2777

Questions?

For more information regarding local voters' pamphlet due dates and procedures, please contact the Elections Division at (425) 388-3444.



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April 28 Special Election

Resolutions due	February 28 @ 5 p.m.
Explanatory statement due*	February 28 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con appointments due*	February 28 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con statements due*	March 5 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con rebuttals due*	March 9 @ 5 p.m.

August 4 Primary

Resolutions due	May 8 @ 5 p.m.
Explanatory statement due	May 8 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con appointments due	May 8 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con statements due	May 19 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con rebuttals due	May 22 @ 5 p.m.

November 3 General Election

Resolutions due	August 4 @ 5 p.m.
Explanatory statement due	August 4 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con appointments due	August 4 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con statements due	August 13 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con rebuttals due	August 18 @ 5 p.m.

February 9, 2021 Special Election

Resolutions due	December 11 @ 5 p.m.
Explanatory statement due*	December 11 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con appointments due*	December 11 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con statements due*	December 17 @ 5 p.m.
Pro/con rebuttals due*	December 21 @ 5 p.m.

*Local voters' pamphlets (LVP) are optional for special elections and must be requested by the district at the time of submitting the resolution. Explanatory statements and pro/con committees are only needed for the LVP.

Who can register to vote?

You may register to vote if you are:

- A U.S. citizen
- 18 years of age or older by Election Day (16 and 17 year-olds can pre-register, but will not vote until age 18)
- A legal resident of Washington State for at least 30 days
- Not under the authority of the DOC
- Not disqualified due to a court order

In Washington, a voter does not register by political party or declare political party membership in any election.

When can I register to vote?

You may register online or by mail up to 8 days before the election or in-person at the Auditor's Office up until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Once you are registered, you do not need to register again unless you change your address or name.

Where can I register to vote?

You may register online at votewa.gov. Mail-in registration forms are available at libraries, post offices, and at the Auditor's Office. You may also register when you renew your driver's license.

What if I change my name, signature or address?

If you change your name or move within Snohomish County, you must update your voter registration. Changes made online or by mail after 8 days before an election will take effect after election certification. Voters can change this information in person up until 8 p.m. Election Day.

Name and signature changes may be made by completing a voter registration form and sending the updated information to Snohomish County Elections. Address changes within Snohomish County may be made by calling Snohomish County Elections at (425) 388-3444 or by sending an email to elections@snoco.org.

Can a voter's registration be canceled simply for failure to vote?

No. Failure to vote alone will not result in the cancellation of a voter's registration.

How are voters' registrations canceled?

Voters' registrations are canceled when a voter registers in another state or county; when Snohomish County Elections receives notice that a voter has died or has been imprisoned for a felony conviction; or when a voter contacts Snohomish County Elections requesting their registration be canceled.

Voters' registrations are also canceled by a periodic removal of voters that have been on inactive status for two successive federal elections. A voter is designated inactive if any mail from Snohomish County Elections is returned as undeliverable from the US Post Office. The voter is then sent a forwardable address verification postcard. The voter is reactivated if he/she votes or notifies Snohomish County Elections of a current address.



Snohomish County Voter Turnout History

Primaries

Year	Number of Registered Voters	Precincts	Total Ballots Cast	Turnout %
2000	328,979	722	125,201	38.06%
2001	322,521	722	101,946	31.61%
2002	314,787	703	109,305	34.72%
2003	324,135	704	97,688	30.14%
2004	330,558	698	149,964	45.37%
2005	325,700	716	89,386	27.44%
2006	337,261	711	130,171	38.60%
2007	339,754	712	95,300	28.05%
2008	351,080	714	148,724	42.36%
2009	366,947	686	90,081	24.55%
2010	375,946	750	145,160	38.61%
2011	388,557	751	100,327	25.82%
2012	400,448	756	142,336	35.54%
2013	333,359	759	73,006	21.90%
2014	417,448	760	106,819	25.59%
2015	420,529	760	96,343	22.91%
2016	436,739	773	146,601	33.57%
2017	459,409	775	109,845	23.91%
2018	454,267	777	168,226	37.03%
2019	473,398	784	115,165	24.33%

General Elections

Year	Number of Registered Voters	Precincts	Total Ballots Cast	Turnout %
2000	338,163	722	253,423	74.94%
2001	323,927	722	151,575	46.79%
2002	318,170	708	181,075	56.91%
2003	325,063	704	130,835	40.25%
2004	352,238	698	296,968	84.31%
2005	354,116	716	175,937	49.68%
2006	334,369	711	208,243	62.28%
2007	333,618	712	170,760	51.18%
2008	372,636	714	324,179	87.00%
2009	371,915	742	180,794	48.61%
2010	377,739	750	270,662	71.65%
2011	384,165	751	200,128	52.09%
2012	415,504	756	334,664	80.54%
2013	417,775	759	173,494	41.53%
2014	416,389	760	213,647	51.31%
2015	425,391	760	146,973	34.76%
2016	456,502	773	360,487	78.97%
2017	453,062	775	148,155	32.70%
2018	461,728	777	325,869	70.58%
2019	475,926	784	204,160	42.90%

All Mail Ballot Elections

Snohomish County is an all mail ballot environment. Ballots are mailed to all eligible registered voters 19 days (30/45 days for military and overseas voters) before each election. Ballots can be returned through the mail or at a 24-hour drop box. There are multiple 24-hour drop box locations throughout the county. These locations are sent with the ballot and posted on the Elections website.

A voter may request a replacement ballot through Election Day by contacting Snohomish County Elections at (425) 388-3444 or visiting the office. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

The Top 2 Primary

The State of Washington has a Top 2 Primary system. Voters can choose to vote for any candidate regardless of their party preference. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary, advance to the General Election.

A Primary is required if:

- more than two candidates file for the same position
- if the office is a partisan office; or
- if the office is decided in a Primary by law.

Candidates need at least 1% of the votes cast in a race to advance to the General Election.

Order of Races and Names on the Ballot

The order of races on a ballot is established by state law and local rule.

The order of candidate names within a race is determined by:

- lot draw for the Primary
- votes received in the Primary for the General Election

If there is no Primary, order of appearance on the General Election ballot is determined by lot draw.

The public, candidates and representatives of political parties may observe ballot signature verification and ballot processing at any time during the election period. All observers must sign in at either Snohomish County Elections, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Administration Building West, Everett or at the Ballot Processing Center. The Ballot Processing Center address for the February and March elections is 1818 Pacific Avenue, Everett. The address for the April, August, and November elections is 1615 75th St SW, Suite 110, Everett.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

The logic and accuracy test is a public test of the election tabulation system. The test is witnessed by party representatives and for primaries or elections with state or federal races, a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State. Testing is conducted by Snohomish County Elections using the same software and hardware that will be used to tabulate ballots.

Election Results

Local election results are available beginning at approximately 8 p.m. on election night at the Snohomish County Elections website (www.snoco.org/elections), the Ballot Processing Center, or by calling (425) 388-3444. Statewide results can be found on the Washington Secretary of State's Office website (www.vote.wa.gov).

Election night results generally represent ballots that have been received by Snohomish County Elections through the Monday before Election Day. Snohomish County Elections staff will continue to verify, open and tabulate mail and provisional ballots until the election is certified 10, 14 or 21 days after the election.

Interim ballot tabulations are determined by voter turnout. Dates and times of interim releases of election results are posted on the Elections website.

Canvassing Board Review of Ballots

The Snohomish County Canvassing Board is comprised of the County Auditor, Chair of the County Council, and the County Prosecuting Attorney or their designated representatives.

Ballots that require review by the Canvassing Board are brought before the Board usually one day before the official certification of the election. Notice of all Canvassing Board meetings are published in the Everett Herald newspaper and on Snohomish County Elections web page. Canvassing Board meetings are open to the public, candidates and representatives of political parties.

Certification of Election Results

All elections must be certified by the Snohomish County Canvassing Board. The process of certification includes a review of the final election tabulation report and the signing of certification documents by each board member. The election certification process is open to the public, candidates and representatives of political parties.

Recounts

Automatic recounts apply to candidates and statewide measures. An automatic machine recount will occur if less than 1/2 of 1% and less than 2,000 votes cast separate candidates or issue responses in a race.

An automatic hand recount will occur if less than 1/4 of 1% and less than 150 votes (or 1,000 votes for statewide races) separate candidates or issue responses in a race.

A recount is applicable only to candidates nominated or elected and the closest defeated opponent based on certified election results. In a primary a recount could occur between the second and third place candidates. An automatic recount will only tally votes for the position in question and will be conducted without charge to any candidate.

A candidate or an officer of a political party may request and pay for a recount if the race is not close enough for an automatic recount or has been recounted once already. All requested recounts must be submitted no later than three business days after the official canvass is complete. A deposit of \$.15 per ballot for a machine count and \$.25 per ballot for a hand count by certified check or cash is required. Final cost of the recount will be calculated after the recount is complete. The recount will be conducted in a time frame determined by the Canvassing Board.

Effective Date of State Measures

State ballot measures receiving a favorable majority vote are declared law by the Governor 30 days after the General Election, unless an effective date is contained within the text of the measure.

For more information:

Visit the following sites for more information on the elections process.

- **Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Title 29A**
apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw
- **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 434**
apps.leg.wa.gov/wac
- **Snohomish County Charter Article 4 - Elections**
www.codepublishing.com/wa/snohomishcounty
- **United States Elections Assistance Commission**
www.eac.gov
- **Washington State Secretary of State's Office/Elections Division**
www.vote.wa.gov
- **Snohomish County Elections**
www.snoco.org/elections
- **Washington State Public Disclosure Commission**
www.pdc.wa.gov



Snohomish County Elections

A Division of the Auditor's Office

Garth Fell

County Auditor

Customer Service Hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Contact Information

Administration Building West, 1st Floor

3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 505

Everett, WA 98201

(425) 388-3444

(800) 562-4367

elections@snoco.org

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